

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-20

DOE-15 SOE-02 COME-00 EB-08 LAB-04 SIL-01 /107 W

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R 111117Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2575

INFO AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

UNCLAS ANKARA 5073

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, TU

SUBJ: PUBLIC SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING - II.

REF: ANKARA 4970

1. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN GOVERNMENT MINISTERS AND TRADE UNION LEADERS ON PUBLIC SECTOR LABOR CONTRACTS ARE CONTINUING, AND PRESS REPORTS STEMMING FROM THESE INDICATE POSITIVE DEVELOPMENTS. MINSTATE HIKMET CETIN AND MINENTERPRISES KENAN BULUTOGLU MET JULY 7 WITH HALIL TUNC AND SADIK SIDE, PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY GENERAL OF TURK-IS (CONFEDERATION OF TURKISH TRADE UNIONS) TO DISCUSS THE MAINTENANCE OF INDUSTRIAL PEACE. FURTHER, IT WAS REPORTED THAT PRIMIN ECEVIT WOULD MEET PRIVATELY WITH TUNC IN A FEW DAYS TO IRON OUT THE FINAL TEXT OF A JOINT DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES TO BE FOLLOWED IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING.

2. SOURCES SAID TO BE CLOSE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND TURK-IS CLAIM THAT SUBSTANTIAL AGREEMENT HAS ALREADY BEEN REACHED ON SUCH ISSUES AS WAGE INCREASES, STRIKE RIGHTS AND LAY OFFS OF WORKERS. THE DECLARATION WILL EMPHASIZE, IT IS SAID, UNCLASSIFIED

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TURK-IS' COMMITMENTS TO ASSIST THE GOVERNMENT IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF DEMOCRACY AND TO MAKE SACRIFICES TO BRING TURKEY OUT OF ITS ECONOMIC CRISIS. REPORTEDLY, WAGE INCREASES ARE TO BE REFELCTED ON THE BASIC WAGE AND SET IN LINE WITH "INCREASES IN PRICES AND EMPLOYMENT". BONUSES (THAT IS, EXTRA MONTH'S PAY PER YEAR) ARE TO BE INCREASED FROM 2 TO 3, AND SEVERANCE PAY INCREASED FROM

30-45 DAYS PAY FOR EACH YEAR OF SERVICE. A PRESS RELEASE EMBODYING THE BARGAINING GUIDELINES IS EXPECTED WITHIN A MATTER OF DAYS, BUT BARGAINING ON THE INDIVIDUAL CONTRACTS WILL REQUIRE AT LEAST UNTIL THE END OF JULY.

3. MEANWHILE, THE CONFEDERATION OF REVOLUTIONARY/REFORMIST TRADE UNIONS (DISK) HAS INDICATED THAT IT WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH THE ECEVIT/TUNC WAGE INCREASE GUIDELINES AS REPORTED. FEHMI ISIKLAR, DISK SECGEN, IN A PRESS STATEMENT JULY 9, ARGUED THAT WORKERS' INTERESTS COULD NOT BE DETERMINED BY HOLDING DISCUSSIONS BEHIND CLOSED DOORS AND THAT THE SACRIFICES NECESSARY TO SOLVE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS MUST COME FROM THE CAPITALIST CIRCLES AND THEIR FOREIGN COLLABORATORS.

4. COMMENT: THE ARRIVAL IN ANKARA ON JULY 10 OF THE IMF TEAM TO ASSESS THE PROGRESS OF TURKEY'S STABILIZATION PROGRAM HAS SERVED TO STRESS THE CENTRAL IMPORTANCE OF WAGES TO TURKISH ECONOMIC PERFORMANCE. TO REDUCE THE RATE OF INFLATION AND CURTAIL THE CENTRAL BUDGET DEFICIT, THE GOVERNMENT NEEDS TO PERSUADE THE LABOR MARKET PARTNERS TO HOLD WAGES DOWN. TO SUCCEED IN THIS ENDEAVOR THE UNIONS WILL HAVE TO BE CONVINCED THAT WAGE INCREASES SUFFICIENT TO MAINTAIN REAL WAGES WILL ONLY ACCELERATE INFLATIONARY PRESSURES AND ERODE ANY TEMPORARY GAINS THEY MIGHT ACHIEVE. SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT THE JAWBONING HAS NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL TO THIS END. DILLON
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